



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERIES SHOW INCREASE FOR 1939

Commercial catch of all fishery products in the Chesapeake Bay States of Maryland and Virginia amounted to 323,653,000 pounds, valued at \$7,197,000, in 1939.

This represents an increase of 10 percent in volume, and 8 percent in value as compared with the catch in the previous year which amounted to 294,594,000 pounds, valued at \$6,663,000, according to figures released today by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, in Statistical Bulletin No. 1416, compiled by the Division of Fishery Industries.

Based on the value to the fishermen, market oysters were the most important product, amounting to 36,847,000 pounds of meats, valued at \$2,726,000.

This compares with 33,412,000 pounds of oyster meats, worth \$2,370,000, in 1938.

Next in value after oyster meats were crabs, 57,046,000 pounds, valued at \$1,369,000; croaker, 43,555,000 pounds, at \$648,000; menhaden, 127,681,000 pounds, at \$546,000; shad, 4,183,000 pounds, at \$388,000; squeteagues, or "sea trout," 13,728,000 pounds, at \$270,000; striped bass, 2,692,000 pounds, at \$222,000; and alewives, 19,229,000 pounds, worth \$198,000.

The catch in Virginia, which includes nearly the entire production of menhaden, amounted to 262,272,000 pounds, valued at \$4,604,000, while that in Maryland amounted to 61,381,000 pounds, worth \$2,593,000.

These fisheries gave employment to 28,239 persons during 1940, consisting of 14,718 fishermen, 12,367 persons in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 1,154 on transporting craft. During 1938, there were 29,328 persons so employed.

In 1939 there were 537 fisheries wholesale and manufacturing establishments in the two States; aggregate salaries and wages paid in such establishments amounted to \$3,475,000; and manufactured products (canned, cured, packaged, and by products) were valued at \$10,684,000. In 1938 there were 582 fisheries wholesale and manufacturing establishments; aggregate salaries and wages amounted to \$3,136,000, and manufactured products amounted to \$9,224,000.

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